

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the regular meeting of the town board of the Town of Pawling at 6:00 PM February 1, 2023 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were councilwomen Snow and Pitt, councilmen DeRosa and McCarthy, Nancy Tagliaferro, town attorney and approximately 3 interested citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Schmitt opened the meeting for public comment on agenda items, and there were none.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION 2023-048
Authorizing the Surplus of Equipment**

WHEREAS, the Town of Pawling purchases equipment that is for general use of a department or town wide, and

WHEREAS, each piece of equipment has a useful life expectancy before becoming obsolete but may still contain value, and

WHEREAS, the superintendent of highways has deemed this equipment to be no longer useful to the highway department and be put out to auction or to salvage to recover any value it may hold, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the equipment is hereby approved by the town board of the Town of Pawling to be sent to auction to receive the highest bid price, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any equipment on auction not claimed shall be disposed of under the guidance of New York State Town Law: Pickup Truck #2 – 2014 Ford F-250.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman McCarthy

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

**RESOLUTION 2023-049
Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Pawling**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that John Harnes is appointed to the Town of Pawling zoning board of appeals to a three-year term commencing on February 1, 2023 and ending on January 31, 2026.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilwoman Pitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilwoman Pitt – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilwoman Snow - “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

BOARD DISCUSSION

PITT

Councilwoman Pitt said she continues to work on the town wide speed limit, saying she has been in touch with New York State regarding this. If the board decides to move forward with this, an outside engineer would need to be hired, which would cost \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00, or the town could wait for NYS DOT to do it, which would take time. She continues to work on this.

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy said the Pawling Fire Dept. went on a total of 317 firematic calls, 20 were structure fires, which is up from other years. He thanked all of the members of the fire dept. for everything they do.

SNOW

Councilwoman Snow said February is black history month and it was appropriate that the swearing in of new town justice Terrance Wansley was held tonight. She wished justice Wansley the best of luck.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said he attended last month's sewer meeting, where they had a good discussion about the sewer rates. On May 10th, there is an economic development seminar put on by the Dutchess County planning federation. He felt this might be valuable to board members. On May 25th, the DC planning federation is putting on a class on parking and site circulation, and May 31st a class on planning board overview.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Town justice Gayle Zelazny addressed board, saying she understood that the town board by resolution 2023-47 intends to change the healthcare plan with NYSHIP from the Empire Plan to the Excelsior Plan and she must voice her unequivocal objection to the Excelsior Plan. The cancer drugs her husband takes are not covered by the Excelsior Plan, the alternative drug suggested by his oncologist is also not covered. She spoke with the Marshall and Sterling benefits consultant who advised her that she will be one hundred percent responsible for the cost of her husband's non covered drugs. These life saving drugs are \$16,000 to \$20,000 per month. She knows it is possible to obtain a medical exception but such an exception is by no means guaranteed and no inquiries can be made until after the town switches to this new plan. She is not willing to take that chance. In 2022 her annual healthcare contribution was \$4,700.00, in 2023 the amount will increase by \$6,700. With the switch to the Excelsior Plan, the annual savings she was told about of \$3, 873.00, that savings is completely illusory, there is no savings to her, only huge increases in both the monthly contribution and the out of pocket drug costs. Her continued service as a town justice is becoming a financial burden and the fact that the town board continues to chisel away at employee benefits highlight's this town's lack of value placed on its employees. She urged the board not to switch plans, which will cause a tremendous financial hardship on her and surely on other town employees. She hoped that none of the board members were ever put in this position of having to really think long and hard about what they are going to do because one member of their family is in this position of having to choose what to do about taking drugs that will leave them in remission from a life threatening disease.

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM, seconded by Councilman McCarthy, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk